

be 5 per centum per annum, but the commission may, in its discretion, defer the payment of interest upon any such loan for such a period of time as the commission shall deem necessary. All such loans shall be made by the commission itself or through such agencies as the commission shall designate. For carrying out the purposes of this section there is hereby authorized to be appropriated the sum of \$6,000,000, of which \$3,000,000 shall be made immediately available, \$2,000,000 shall be made available on January 1, 1930, and \$1,000,000 shall be made available on January 1, 1931. All money received during a period of five years from the date of the approval of this joint resolution as repayment of any loan or interest on loan made under the provisions of this joint resolution shall be held by said commission as a revolving fund, which may be loaned on applications for the purposes and upon the terms and conditions herein provided, and all money received thereafter as payments of interest and principal on all loans made under the provisions of this joint resolution shall be covered into the Treasury as miscellaneous receipts.

Sum authorized for loans.  
*Post*, p. 1609.

Repayments a revolving fund for five years.

Covered into the Treasury thereafter.

SEC. 4. There is hereby authorized to be appropriated the sum of \$2,000,000 to be used for the rebuilding and repair of school-houses damaged or destroyed by the hurricane in the small towns and rural districts of Porto Rico and for the employment of labor and the purchase of materials for repairing insular and rural municipal roads. The sum hereby authorized to be appropriated shall be expended in such manner and in such amounts as the commission shall approve.

Sum authorized for rebuilding school-houses, roads, etc.  
*Post*, p. 1609.

SEC. 5. There is hereby authorized to be appropriated the sum of \$100,000 to be expended by the commission in the purchase and distribution within the devastated area of Porto Rico of seeds and seedlings, particularly of food and root crops, in such manner as it deems advisable.

Sum authorized to buy and distribute seeds, etc.  
*Post*, p. 1609.

SEC. 6. The commission shall make an annual report to Congress at the beginning of each regular session, giving a complete account of its activities in carrying out the provisions of this resolution.

Annual reports to Congress.

Approved, December 21, 1928.

CHAP. 47.—An Act To authorize the Secretary of the Interior to issue patents for lands held under color of title.

December 22, 1928.  
[S. 3776.]  
[Public, No. 645.]

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled*, That whenever it shall be shown to the satisfaction of the Secretary of the Interior that a tract of public land, not exceeding one hundred and sixty acres, has been held in good faith and in peaceful, adverse, possession by a citizen of the United States, his ancestors or grantors, for more than twenty years under claim or color of title, and that valuable improvements have been placed on such land, or some part thereof has been reduced to cultivation, the Secretary may, in his discretion, upon the payment of not less than \$1.25 per acre, cause a patent to issue for such land to any such citizen: *Provided*, That where the area so held is in excess of one hundred and sixty acres the Secretary may determine what particular subdivisions, not exceeding one hundred and sixty acres, may be patented hereunder: *Provided further*, That coal and all other minerals contained therein are hereby reserved to the United States; that said coal and other minerals shall be subject to sale or disposal by the United States under applicable leasing and mineral land laws, and permittees, lessees, or grantees of the United States shall have the right to enter upon said lands for the purpose of prospecting for and mining such deposits:

Public lands.  
Patent for 160 acres of, to citizen holder for 20 years under color of title.

*Provisos.*  
Determination, if area in excess.

Minerals reserved, etc.

Consideration of adverse claims.

Appraisal, etc., of lands on application for purchase thereof.

*And provided further*, That no patent shall issue under the provisions of this Act for any tract to which there is a conflicting claim adverse to that of the applicant, unless and until such claim shall have been finally adjudicated in favor of such applicant.

SEC. 2. That upon the filing of an application to purchase any lands subject to the operation of this Act, together with the required proof, the Secretary of the Interior shall cause the lands described in said application to be appraised, said appraisal to be on the basis of the value of such lands at the date of appraisal, exclusive of any increased value resulting from the development or improvement of the lands by the applicant or his predecessors in interest, and in such appraisal the Secretary shall consider and give full effect to the equities of any such applicant.

Approved, December 22, 1928.

December 22, 1928.

[S. 4126.]

[Public, No. 646.]

**CHAP. 48.**—An Act Authorizing the National Capital Park and Planning Commission to acquire title to land subject to limited rights reserved, and limited rights in land, and authorizing the Director of Public Buildings and Public Parks of the National Capital to lease land or existing buildings for limited periods in certain instances.

District of Columbia Park and playground system.  
Vol. 44, p. 374, amended.

Lands subject to limited reserved rights may be acquired by National Capital Park and Planning Commission.

Vol. 43, p. 463; Vol. 44, p. 374.

*Provisos.*

Time limit of rights.

Park purposes not to be impaired thereby.

Permanent rights in adjoining land to prevent impairment of park property.

Protection, etc., secured by such means.

Contracts subject to approval of President.

Land, buildings, etc., may be leased pending immediate need for park, etc., purposes.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled*, That the authority of the National Capital Park and Planning Commission, established by the Act approved April 30, 1926 (Statutes at Large, volume 44, page 374), is hereby enlarged as follows:

Said commission is hereby authorized to acquire, for and in behalf of the United States of America, by gift, devise, purchase, or condemnation, in accordance with the provisions of the Act of June 6, 1924 (Statutes at Large, volume 43, page 463), as amended by the Act of April 30, 1926 (Statutes at Large, volume 44, page 374), (1) fee title to land subject to limited rights, but not for business purposes, reserved to the grantor: *Provided*, That such reservation of rights shall not continue beyond the life or lives of the grantor or grantors of the fee: *Provided further*, That in the opinion of said commission the permanent public park purposes for which control over said land is needed are not essentially impaired by said reserved rights and that there is a substantial saving in cost by acquiring said land subject to said limited rights as compared with the cost of acquiring unencumbered title thereto; (2) permanent rights in land adjoining park property sufficient to prevent the use of said land in certain specified ways which would essentially impair the value of the park property for its purposes: *Provided*, That in the opinion of said commission the protection and maintenance of the essential public values of said park can thus be secured more economically than by acquiring said land in fee or by other available means: *Provided further*, That all contracts for acquisition of land subject to such limited rights reserved to the grantor and for acquisition of such limited permanent rights in land shall be subject to the approval of the President of the United States.

SEC. 2. The Director of Public Buildings and Public Parks of the National Capital is authorized, subject to the approval of the National Capital Park and Planning Commission, to lease, for a term not exceeding five years, and to renew such lease, subject to such approval, for an additional term not exceeding five years, pending need for their immediate use in other ways by the public, and on such terms as the director shall determine, land or any existing building or structure on land acquired for park, parkway, or playground purposes.

Approved, December 22, 1928.